

Message Text

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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MARCH 2 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX

1. HENRY TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT "REFLECTING NEW POLICY DECISIONS, ADMINISTRATION YESTERDAY ALL OUT SUSPENDED HOPE FOR NEW SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS CONTROL TREATY AS LONG AS SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA INCREASES. IN BOTH WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT, SPOKESMEN AVOIDED DIRECT LINKAGE BETWEEN TWO ELEMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY. BUT THEY SAID, IN EFFECT, THAT LINKAGE IS BEING UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCED ON THEM. IF SOVIET LEADERS ARE RESOLVED TO DOMINATE HORN OF AFRICA, ONE SENIOR OFFICIAL REMARKED, 'THEY MUST BE PREPARED TO PAY PRICE FOR IT.' HE DID NOT INDICATE WHAT PRICE WOULD BE. ANOTHER SAID U.S. MUST MAKE ITS POSITION FELT BEFORE SOVIET COMMITMENT BECOMES ANY DEEPER. TO DO THAT, HE ADDED, ADMINISTRATION NEEDS PUBLIC SUPPORT. IN THAT LIGHT, SERIES OF STATEMENTS YESTERDAY

PUT BOTH AMERICAN PUBLIC AND RUSSIANS ON NOTICE OF CHILLY DAYS AHEAD IN SUPERPOWER RELATIONS. STERNER ATTITUDE TOWARD MOSCOW HAD BEEN COORDINATED BY WIDE RANGE OF POLICY MAKERS. IT WAS PRESENTED IN GREATEST DETAIL BY ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI, PRESIDENT CARTER'S NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER. DESPITE EARLIER OPTIMISM REGARDING NEW SALT TREATY, HE SAID, SALT ISSUES STILL UNRESOLVED ARE SUBSTANTIAL. INEVITABLY, HE TOLD REPORTERS, NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY GROWING TENSIONS OVER 'UNWARRANTED INTRUSION OF SOVIET POWER INTO PURELY LOCAL CONFLICT.'" TREWHITT SAID ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS KEPT DOOR OPEN TO SUCCESS IN SALT IF OTHER ISSUES ARE RESOLVED. "BUT THERE IS GROWING CONSENSUS IN ADMINISTRATION THAT COMPLETION OF SALT AGREEMENT THIS YEAR IS UNLIKELY AND THAT IT WOULD BE REJECTED BY SENATE, MERITS ASIDE, UNLESS CLIMATE IMPROVES" TREWHITT ADDED. H SAID AMBASSADOR WARNKE "TRIED HARDEST TO KEEP ISSUES SEPARATE ON THEIR INDIVIDUAL MERITS. TALKING WITH REPORTERS AFTER GIVING PRIVATE TESTIMONY TO CONGRESS, HE STILL LOOKED TOWARD COMPLETION OF TREATY BY MIDYEAR." BUT REP. CHARLES H. WILSON, WHO HAS OBSERVED SALT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA AND OPPOSES CURRENT U.S. NEGOTIATING TERMS, SAYS FIRMLY THERE IS NO CHANCE FOR TREATY IN 1978, TREWHITT REPORTED. WASHINGTON POST SAID AMBASSADOR WARNKE CONCURRED WITH WHAT BRZEZINSKI SAID "BUT EMPLOYED NOTICEABLY FAR Milder TERMINOLOGY." AFTER MEETING IN CLOSED SESSION WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMITTEE, WARNKE TOLD REPORTERS "WHAT MR. BRZEZINSKI HAS SAID IS THAT OBVIOUSLY, IF WE HAD SITUATION SUCH AS EXISTS IN HORN OF AFRICA, IT MAKES NEGOTIATING CLIMATE FAR LESS PROPITIOUS." HOWEVER, WARNKE ADDED, "SALT TREATY IS NOT REWARD FOR SOVIET GOOD BEHAVIOR. IT'S WAY IN WHICH WE ADVANCE OUR OWN INTERESTS." WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA ARE "MAKING PROGRESS. THERE IS NO STALEMATE."

2. MURREY MARDER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID WHITE HOUSE FOR FIRST TIME DIRECTLY TIED FATE OF SALT TREATY TO CONCERTED ADMINISTRATION CONCERN WITH SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN HORN OF AFRICA. COMMENTING ON BRZEZINSKI'S REMARKS ABOUT "UNWARRANTED INTRUSION OF SOVIET POWER" INTO ETHIOPIAN-SOMALI CONFLICT, MARDER SAID THIS WAS "STRONGEST WARNING EVER MADE BY CARTER ADMINISTRATION ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CONSEQUENCES OF SOVIET MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA. IT WAS FIRST TIME ADMINISTRATION EXPLICITLY HAS POINTED TO POTENTIAL REBOUND AGAINST SALT, CORE ISSUE IN U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE. IT WAS ALSO FIRST TIME CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS SO EXPLICITLY INVOKED AMERICAN POLITICAL LINKAGE BETWEEN

DISPARATE ISSUES ON U.S.-SOVIET SCENE. 'WE ARE NOT IMPOSING LINKAGES,' BRZEZINSKI SAID, 'BUT LINKAGES MAY BE IMPOSED BY UNWARRANTED EXPLOITATION OF LOCAL CONFLICT FOR LARGER INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES.'" MARDER SAID IT WAS LEARNED THAT CARTER ADMINISTRATION DECIDED AT MEETING OF NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL LAST THURSDAY TO FOCUS GREATER

PUBLIC ATTENTION ON SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN HORN OF AFRICA AND DANGER IT RAISED FOR INCREASING WORLD TENSION. WHAT BRZEZINSKI WAS SAYING, IN EFFECT, MARDER EXPLAINED, WAS THAT ADMINISTRATION CANNOT MUSTER POLITICAL SUPPORT NECESSARY TO APPROVE NEW SALT ACCORD WITHOUT NEW CONCESSIONS BY SOVIET UNION, AND WITHOUT AN ABATEMENT OF PATTERN OF SOVIET ACTIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA.
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3. RICHARD BURT OF NEW YORK TIMES QUOTED WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL AS SAYING "MR. BRZEZINSKI NOT ONLY REFLECTS PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT BUT REITERATES STATEMENT OF FACTS OF LIFE."

4. NEW YORK TIMES PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH FROM MOSCOW QUOTING IZVESZIA AS SAYING U.S. WAS SEEKING TO LINK FIGHTING IN HORN OF AFRICA TO SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. IZVESTIA SAID THERE WERE SOME PEOPLE WHO "WOULD LIKE TO MAKE RESOLUTION OF MOST IMPORTANT, FUNDAMENTAL TASKS DEPENDENT ON SOME LOCAL SITUATION OR OTHER."

5. BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH FROM BUDAPEST REPORTING THAT TEN RULING COMMUNIST PARTIES YESTERDAY DENOUNCED U.S. PROJECTED NEUTRON BOMB AS WEAPON HINDERING NORMALIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS.

6. JOHN FIALKA OF WASHINGTON STAR SAID CIA INFORMED PRESIDENT JOHNSON IN 1968 THAT ISRAEL HAD ATOM BOMB, BUT JOHNSON TOLD THEN-CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS TO DROP MATTER. JOHNSON-HELMS CONVERSATION WAS DESCRIBED IN SECRET BRIEFING TO DOZEN TOP OFFICIALS OF NUCLEAR REGULATOR IN FEBRUARY 1976 BY CARL DUCKETT, THEN CIA'S THIRD-RANKING OFFICIAL, FIALKA SAID. HE SAID HEAVILY CENSORED VERSION OF NRC INTERVIEW WITH DUCKETT WAS RELEASED LAST WEEKEND.

7. SIX OUT OF TEN NEW YORK METROPOLITAN-AREA RESIDENTS AGREE WITH PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO BAN NUCLEAR-POWERED SATELLITES FROM EARTH ORBIT, ACCORDING TO NEW YORK DAILY NEWS OPINION POLL.

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8. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR PUBLISHED REUTER DISPATCH FROM PARIS REPORTING THAT FRANCE IS STUDYING POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING CRUISE MISSILES. ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCES, FRANCE ALREADY HAS EXPERIMENTAL CRUISE MISSILE THAT WILL FLY FOR ABOUT AN HOUR.

9. CHARLES CORDDRY OF BALTIMORE SUN REPORTED THAT DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN WARNED CONGRESS YESTERDAY THAT SOVIET OPERATIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA MAY BE TEST RUN FOR

MORE AMBITIOUS MILITARY ACTIONS ELSEWHERE. BROWN ALSO DISCLOSED THAT SOVIET LAND-BASED MISSILE FORCES NOW HAVE SURPASSED THOSE OF U.S. IN NUMBER OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS THEY CAN DELIVER. CORDDRY REPORTED THAT OTHER SOURCES SAID THIS WAS RECENT DEVELOPMENT BUT THAT U.S. RETAINED AN OVER-ALL ADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF SUPERIOR NUMBERS OF WARHEADS MOUNTED ON SUBMARINE-CARRIED MISSILES. BROWN APPEARED BEFORE HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE DEFENSE PANEL TO URGE AGAINST CUTS IN ADMINISTRATION'S 126 BILLION MILITARY BUDGET FOR FY '79. BROWN SAID ANY REDUCTIONS "WILL CUT INTO MUSCLE -- NOT FAT OR PADDING." SOVIET DEFENSE EFFORT, HE MAINTAINED, "NOW APPEARS TO EXCEED OURS" BY 20 TO 40 PERCENT. BROWN SAID THERE IS ROUGH PARITY BETWEEN U.S. AND USSR IN STRATEGIC NUCLEAR AREA. "IN TICKING OFF VARIOUS COMPARISONS, HE REVEALED THAT SOVIET LAND-BASED MISSILES NOT ONLY CARRY MORE MEGATONS OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCE BUT NOW HAVE BEEN ARMED WITH MORE INDIVIDUAL WARHEADS THAN THOSE OF U.S.," CORDDRY REPORTED. "THIS IS CONSEQUENCE OF SOVIET ADVANCES IN PUTTING MIRV'S ON SINGLE MISSILES -- FIELD IN WHICH U.S. ONCE HAD MONOPOLY. MR. BROWN SAID U.S. HAS MORE WARHEADS AND MORE TOTAL DESTRUCTIVE FORCE MOUNTED ON ITS SUBMARINE-LAUNCHED MISSILES AND MUCH MORE IN ITS BOMBERS. OVER-ALL U.S. ADVANTAGE IN WARHEADS 'APPROACHES' TWO TO ONE, AN INFORMED SOURCE SAID." VANCE

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